

Fight for European Workers

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Ex-CIA Man Fingers Labor

NEW YORK, May 8 (UPI) — A former Central Intelligence Agency officer said he turned over thousands of dollars in CIA funds to American labor leaders to help bolster unions in post-war Europe against communist subversion.

Thomas Braden, specifically named United Auto Workers President Walter P. Reuther, to whom he said he handed over \$50,000 in \$50 bills, and Irving Brown of the American Federation of Labor who allegedly got \$15,000 "from the vaults of the CIA."

Mr. Braden, now editor and publisher of The Blade-Tribune, Oceanside, Calif., defended these and other actions of the CIA in an article in The Saturday Evening Post.

Referring to criticisms made by Mr. Reuther's brother, Victor, Director of International Affairs for the UAW about labor co-operation with the CIA, Mr. Braden scoffed, "Victor Reuther ought to be ashamed of himself."

"At his request, I went to Detroit one morning and gave Walter \$50,000 in \$50 bills. Victor spent the money, mostly in West Germany, to bolster labor unions there."

In Detroit, Walter Reuther confirmed yesterday that the UAW did agree, reluctantly, on one occasion, to the request to transmit Government funds to supplement the inadequate funds being made available by the U. S. labor movement.

Mr. Reuther did not name the sources of the funds in his statement but a UAW spokesman confirmed today that the money

referred to was the \$50,000 mentioned by Mr. Braden.

Calling Mr. Braden's remarks "incomplete and misleading," Mr. Reuther said the money he got was "merely added to the trade union fund to intensify the education and organizational programs then under way in Europe. The content of the programs was in no way affected or altered."

Mr. Reuther also said that following this incident his brother Victor was contacted by Mr. Braden and asked to become an agent for the CIA, using as a front his position as European representative of the CIO.

"Victor Reuther emphatically rejected Mr. Braden's request," the UAW President said.

Mr. Braden said the \$15,000 he had given Mr. Brown was needed to pay off Mr. Brown's strong-arm squads in Mediterranean ports, so that American supplies could be unloaded against the opposition of communist dock workers.

"It was also my idea to give cash, along with advice, to other labor leaders, to students, professors and others who could help the United States in its battle with communist fronts."

Included among other claims made by Mr. Braden were:

- That the CIA financed a highly successful European tour by the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

- That money for the publication of *Encounter*, a magazine published in England dedicated to cultural achievement and political freedom, came from the

intelligence agency. Braden said a CIA man became an editor for *Encounter*.

(Stephen Spender, British poet and author, said yesterday he has resigned as contributing editor to *Encounter* because CIA money has helped finance it for 10 years.)

- That a CIA agent was placed in "a Europe based organization of intellectuals called the Congress for Cultural Freedom."